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➤BOOK :NOTICES.◀

ORIENTAL RECORDS.*

Under the general title above given are included two books that are really companion volumes, the one filling out (and completing the other. These books are popular in style, and designed rather for the general reader than the scholar or specialist; the author acknowledges, regretfully, his inability to translate the cuneiform characters, and uses the translations given by such men as the late George Smith, Brugsch-Bey, Lenormant, Fox Talbot, and others.

The books consist of short articles upon different subjects, taken, as it appears, somewhat arbitrarily from the mass of coincidences that can be found between the Bible and the Oriental records. Various biblical passages are taken up; the translations of the records, Assyrian, Egyptian, Arabian, Syrian, Babylonian as the case may be, are given, and the points of resemblance are pointed out.

The author holds the extreme conservative opinion in reference to the biblical narrative, practically denying that any use was made by the sacred writers of antecedent documents; and in some points he thus weakens the very position he strives to establish. At times there is manifested a disposition to find confirmatory evidence in that which is of decidedly doubtful character. For instance, there is given a translation of the Rock Inscriptions as found in the Wady Mokatteb, in the Sinaitic Peninsula; but all the authorities, as the author acknowledges, are opposed to the interpretation given, and it is now well settled that the inscriptions date from a few centuries before Christ, and prove almost nothing in reference to the Bible.

It would be interesting to compare these books with some of the more recent works in the same field, and thus see the great advance made in biblical archæology during the last five years; but for this we have not space. These books served a valuable purpose in their time, but are now in large measure supplanted; and their original usefulness was greatly impaired by the disposition already mentioned to find more than the facts would warrant. If used at all, it must be with discretion.

HOURS WITH THE BIBLE. VOL. VI.†

The former volumes of this work have been noticed in *THE STUDENT* as from time to time they have appeared. This volume covers a period of biblical history, the least known, perhaps, to the average Bible student. The attempt is

* *ORIENTAL RECORDS*. Monumental. Confirmatory of the Old Testament Scripture.—Historical. Confirmatory of the Old and New Testament Scriptures. By W. H. Rule, D. D. London: *S. Bagster & Sons*. 5¼x7½. Pp. 247, 242. Price, \$1.75 each.

† *HOURS WITH THE BIBLE*, or the Scriptures in the light of Modern Discovery and Knowledge. By Cunningham Geikie, D. D. Vol. VI. From the Exile to Malachi, completing the Old Testament. New York: *James Pott & Co.*, 12 Astor Place. Pp. 544. Price \$1.50.

made "to incorporate the utterances of the prophets with the special incidents of contemporary history to which so many of them relate." The writer aptly describes their prophetic utterances as the "pulpit literature of the day." Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Isaiah XL.-LXVI., Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi are presented in their historical connection, and receive great light from a study of this connection. In reference to this series, now that it is complete, we may say :

1) There are few men who can cover to good advantage in so short a time (five years) so much ground ; and it may fairly be questioned whether Dr. Geikie has not hurried his work. There are certainly evidences here and there that his material has not been so thoroughly digested as it might have been. The success of the first volume, doubtless, led him to finish the work within a shorter time than he would otherwise have done.

2) In many chapters, there is a lack of that unity, the existence of which is necessary if the reader is to have a satisfied feeling when his perusal of the chapter has been finished. No clear outline suggests itself. One paragraph runs into another. The reader pushes on headlong till the end is reached and then feels, that "to get hold of the matter" he must go back and analyze it.

3) Notwithstanding this, it is probable that no series of books ever published on the Old Testament, has been more popular ; or more helpful to the general reading public. Their study cannot fail to give the student a broader, better, truer knowledge of Bible men, Bible events and Bible truths. The method employed is the only method to understand aright the Book. This work ought to be on the shelf of every man who professes to be a searcher after the truth.

TYNDALE'S PENTATEUCH.*

The thanks of scholars are due the Rev. J. I. Mombert for the labor involved in bringing out this magnificent edition of Tyndale's Pentateuch. But one perfect copy of the edition of 1530 is known to be in existence. All other copies are in some respect deficient. This translation was the first ever made into English from the Hebrew original. That Tyndale did not translate from the Latin and German versions is clearly seen on every page. The reasons which have led to the present issue are stated to be these :—"It is designed to be a grateful tribute to the memory of the martyr-translator ; to make this noble version, which as a first translation is not excelled by any other with which I am acquainted, generally accessible to Bible readers ; to *fix* its text by actual collation with different editions ; to establish its relations to the Latin and German versions ; to furnish a contemporary commentary in the notes of Luther and Rogers, and to enrich the philology of the language with a copious vocabulary."

Among the interesting material collected in the Prolegomena is a photographic copy of an autograph-letter written by Tyndale while in prison at Vilvorde, in the winter of 1535. The translation reads as follows :—"I believe, most excellent Sir, that you are not unacquainted with the decision reached concerning me. On which account, I beseech your lordship, even by the Lord Jesus, that if I am to

* WILLIAM TYNDALE'S FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES, CALLED THE PENTATEUCH, being a verbatim reprint of the edition of M.CCCC.XXX. compared with Tyndale's Genesis of 1534, and the Pentateuch in the Vulgate, Luther, and Matthew's Bible, with various collations and prolegomena. By the Rev. J. I. Mombert, D. D. New York: A. D. F. Randolph & Co. Pp. 635. Price \$5. [First edition limited to five hundred copies.]